

## **BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design)**

This Level 3 qualification is an exciting programme of study that is designed to allow students to make informed decisions about their progression opportunities, usually into art and design in higher education. The Diploma builds on prior experience and sets challenges throughout the structure of the qualification.

There are three Stages:

### **1. The Exploratory Stage**

Requires investigations and skills' building that is not specifically outcomes based. This stage is crucial because it permits the suspension of outcome production and places a heavy emphasis on the ability to develop beyond convention and allow a more creative and lateral approach to designing or making to take place. The assessment evidence demands presentation of research methodologies related to the use of materials and processes but also in the exploration of historical and contemporary references to understand and underpin experiments and the direction or focus of work in progress. The teaching and learning at this stage should engender a degree of intellectual curiosity that takes the work forward through the development of ideas and concepts.

### **2. The Pathway Stage**

Moves towards specialism by fully exploring the complexities involved within specialist areas of art, craft and design. It should continue the patterns of experimentation and supporting research. It also covers the setting of progression targets throughout Unit 7 that builds the portfolio, personal presentation skills and CV.

### **3. The Confirmatory Stage**

Comprises the two units that make up the externally assessed Final Major Project. Students write a Statement of Intent and this is submitted to the External Examiner for scrutiny and to ensure that it meets the minimum Pass criteria. This provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to self-initiate and articulate a project within their chosen specialism, setting ideas and challenges supported by historical and/or contemporary contextualisation. They are expected to demonstrate critical review and analysis through evaluation of the design or making process that exemplifies personal development and independence in preparation for progression and career choices.

Units 1 to 7 have to be passed before the Confirmatory Stage is begun. Any Referrals for units must be redeemed before this stage of the qualification. Referrals gained at the Confirmatory Stage may be redeemed to allow students to achieve the full qualification and progress into higher education.

The Final Major Project units are assessed and graded together for the final award and will be Pass, Merit or Distinction.